(b) the area of cultivable land of the country which has become barren due to this reasons; and

(c) to what extent the quantum of harmful chemicals in water sources of the rural areas is higher than the safe level; the details thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA); (a) to (b) The average consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are 89.8 kg/h and 0.22 kg/ha respectively. This level of consumption is not considered to have ill-effect on agriculture. However, the Government is advocating "Integrated Nutrient Management" (INM) by promoting balanced and judicious use of chemcial fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures depending on soil quality, bio-fertilizers, etc. Government is also advocating organic farming by using organic inputs for plant nutrients.

Desertification monitoring and assessment

† 3917. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken desertification monitoring and assessment in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such information is used to evolve suitable strategies to arrest desertification; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAiN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A pilot project titled "Desertification Status Mapping" has been assigned to the Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad. The mapping process utilises Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data on 1:50,000 sacle adopting a three level classification based on:—

(i) landuse/land cover

(ii) process of degradation

(iii) severity of degradation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. SAC has developed a comprehesive classification system for Desertifcation Status Mapping using satellite data. The methodology for Desertification Status Mapping (DSM) has been standardized. The same has been circulated to the concerned Ministries.

NGOs financial aid for plantations

† 3918. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations that have been provided with financial aid during the last five years for plantation under the Afforestation Scheme; state-wise details thereof;

(b) whether these organizations have submitted the utilization certificates after implementation of the scheme and whether an inspection of their work has been carried out by Government; and

(c) if so, the number of organizations whose work was found to be satisfactory and the number of organization which have misutilized the funds and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) 937 Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) have been provided financial assistance during the last five years for plantation under the Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. State-wise details of the organisations and the funds released are given in the Statement (See below)

(b) and (c) During Tenth Five Year Plan, Principal Chief Conservators of Forests of States have been assigned the responsibility of appraisal, scrutiny, prioritization and recommendation of proposals under the scheme of the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Subsequent instalments to the project implementing agencies are released only on receipt of the Utilisation Certificate and the field inspection report of the State Forest Department. Independent evaluation of selected proposals is also part of the overall exercise of monitoring and evaluation of the scheme. No case establishing misutilisation of funds by the project implementing agencies has come to the notice of the Ministry of Environment and Forests._____

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.